

WANDERERS ATTACK LACKED IDEAS AND DRIVE

By Argus

Leytonstone 3; Wycombe Wanderers 1

WYCOMBE CAN USE McDONALD

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AFTER watching this disjointed Wycombe display the Wanderers officials should waste no time in appointing Colin McDonald, ex-England and Burnley goalkeeper, as their coach (writes COLIN BARR).

It was only the excellent agility and anticipation of Wycombe goalkeeper Ken Brown who prevented a confident Leytonstone from increasing their score.

Too often centre half John Fisher and his defenders were caught backstepping, leaving their rivals' attackers uncovered and free to exploit dangerous moves.

Wanderers, at present without a manager-coach, following the resignation of Sid Cann, need the off-field guidance of McDonald to fill the gap left by Paul Bates, now with Tooting.

Leytonstone were a goal ahead in eight minutes following a fine direct free-kick by Jim Messer. He shot across field, past the diving Brown and into the far corner.

Wycombe equalised with a powerful 30-yard free-kick from Thomas, his shot sailing down to the waiting Ivor Ashby, who calmly headed past Griffin.

There was more attack and counter-attack after the interval, with "Stones" captain Ray Wood saving on the goal-line and keeper Brown fisting out a point-blank shot from Albert Greenhill. Then Leytonstone got right on top with two more goals.

THE erstwhile Loakes Park Bates-baiters should have been at Leytonstone on Saturday afternoon to see for themselves just how big a gap their favourite target leaves in the Wycombe scheme of things. While peerless Paul was scoring five glittering goals for his new club, Tooting and Mitcham, Wanderers were struggling for ideas and drive.

Bates may well be unpredictable but that very unpredictability and unorthodoxy stems from rare footballing talents. This Wanderers attack, without him, was far too predictable and unimaginative.

But the milk is spilt and the Wanderers selectors will have to do some experimenting to get the best out of the available material. The attack which flattered and finally fizzled at Leytonstone will not do.

Tommy Holmes, an able and most intelligent footballer, will need much more support than this if he is going to put Wanderers back among the goals. Lack of a crisply moving decisive inside forward cost Wycombe dearly on Saturday. The converted Ivor Ashby, apart from a lovely goal, and Michael Rockell were rarely at grips with the game.

The reinforced robust Leytonstone side looked a far better unit than did Wycombe. Their defence was tighter and more reliable under pressure and the attack was both quicker and more dangerous in front of goal.

But for Ken Brown, who stretched from toe to fingertips to take some of Leytonstone's shots, Wycombe would have yielded several more goals on this their unluckiest Isthmian ground.

HARD WORKED

John Beck, who had a great duel with the fleet and cerebral veteran Ron Cudmore, and John Fisher, strong man of a terribly hard-worked half-back line, were the pick of the other defenders. Isthmian pace troubled new

wing-half Charlie Gale in the early part of the game but this powerfully built, hard-tackling player is clearly going to be a Wycombe asset.

Lively Leytonstone gave the Wycombe defence plenty to do and were quick to capitalise on mistakes. Wycombe were not so diligent. Holmes and Ashby had chances within seconds of each other to walk the ball past goalkeeper Griffin but both shot straight at him.

After eight minutes Dave Thomas made a foul tackle on the edge of the Wycombe penalty area and left-half Jim Messer slammed a low free kick past the diving Brown.

TIME TO SPARE

When 'Stones' skipper Roy Allen foolishly handled to stop Len Worley on the right, Thomas atoned by sending over a 30 yards free kick which Ashby cleverly headed past Griffin.

But after 55 minutes Thomas was robbed in midfield when he might well have cleared and Tiffin and Cudmore nipped goalwards for Tiffin to score. Ten minutes later Cudmore strolled easily through a hesitant defence for the third.

Wycombe wingers Len Worley and Alan Murphy looked much more menacing in the second half — particularly new captain Worley who made some fine right-wing dribbles — but Leytonstone seemed to have time to spare when the ball reached the centre.

Wycombe—K. Brown; J. Beck, A. Lewis; D. Thomas, J. Fisher, C. Gale; L. Worley, I. Ashby, T. Holmes, M. Rockell and A. Murphy.